

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**“Get Urban America” Founder to Be Keynote Speaker at
South Bend Pride of Place Design Award Reception**

South Bend, IN—Downtown South Bend, Inc. (DTSB) and The City of South Bend announced today Kyle Ezell, founder of Get Urban America, Ltd (a Columbus, Ohio based urban planning and marketing firm dedicated to teaching the urban lifestyle to Americans) will serve as the keynote speaker at their first annual South Bend Pride of Place Design Awards. Scheduled to take place at 9 am on Saturday, April 28, 2007 at the South Bend Regional Museum of Art, the award reception will honor seven different projects that shine as examples of urban vision and value in Downtown South Bend.

Marco Mariani, Interim Executive Director of DTSB said, “As a trained cultural geographer, a nationally known certified city planner, and an instructor of downtown housing for the Ohio State University’s City and Regional Planning Program, we felt Mr. Ezell would be an excellent speaker and help us engage in new ways of thinking about Downtown South Bend.”

Ezell, who spent 12 years as a public sector city planner before opening his firm, believes that in order to build sustainable, vibrant urban places, city leaders, developers, and urban enthusiasts must first understand and accept that most Americans simply do not like cities.

Competing among twenty applicants, this year’s inaugural winners are:

- Ø The Morris Bistro—Tenant/Owner Improvement
- Ø Palais Royale-Achievement in Historic Preservation
- Ø The Museums at Washington & Chapin-New Downtown Construction
- Ø The Colfax Place-Tenant/Owner Interior Improvement
- Ø Sunshine Clubhouse at the Madison Center-Landscaping
- Ø Firehouse Hose Company #3-Special Recognition
- Ø South Bend Civic Theatre-Adaptive Reuse

Award winners will receive project specific glass block awards designed by local artist/photographer Adrienne Werge. A duplicate of each award will be used as part of a planned public art installation.

Tickets to the award reception are \$25 and must be reserved by April 25, 2007.

For more information about the South Bend Pride of Place Awards Program or to make reservations please call 282-1110, #104